

has made substantial improvements in the quality of patient care and services. He also has been a close friend and adviser to me for many years on health care issues, and I have great confidence in his judgement and insight.

Dr. Rapoport took over stewardship of the Medical System in 1984. Since then, he has transformed the University of Maryland Hospital from a public institution with annual operating losses in the millions to a successful private corporation with a record of strong financial performance and renowned clinical programs. The Medical System now includes University Hospital, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, Maryland's Hospital for Children, Kernan Hospital, University Speciality Hospital, Maryland General Health Systems and the North Arundel Health System.

Dr. Rapoport is a Baltimore native who attended my alma mater Baltimore City College and University of Maryland School of Medicine. He conducted research on infectious diseases and served as associate dean of the medical school before taking over as head of University Hospital in 1982. In 1984, Dr. Rapoport was appointed President and CEO of the newly created UM Medical System.

Before retiring, Dr. Rapoport oversaw planning and construction of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building, a \$150 million facility to house operating rooms of the future and a new adult and pediatric emergency department. On Nov. 15, 2003, at a special gala, it will be announced that the atrium in the new Weinberg Building will be named in honor of Dr. Rapoport and his wife, Rosalie.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Dr. Morton I. Rapoport for his dedication, leadership and vision in helping the University of Maryland Medical System become one of the most respected institutions in this country and in the world.

HONORS THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Gateway Small Business Center in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United States Small Business Administration. The SBA has played an integral role in developing and nurturing the spirit of entrepreneurs and thus, strengthening the foundation of communities across the country.

We have been especially fortunate in my home state of Connecticut where, with nearly seventy percent of jobs found in small businesses, the SBA has forged strong bonds of partnership and—more importantly—friendship with countless organizations and communities. I would like to extend a special note of thanks and appreciation to Marie Record, Connecticut District Office Director, not only for her dedication and commitment, but also for all the assistance that she has provided to myself and my staff over the years. She has and continues to be an invaluable resource for us all.

I have often said that small business is the backbone of our nation's economy and the heart of our communities. From the General Mercantile to today's Mom & Pop storefronts, small businesses have been an important vehicle for delivering the American Dream. In addition, they are often what defines the character of a neighborhood, a town, or even a city. In my childhood neighborhood of Wooster Square, my grandmother, along with my mother and aunts, ran a small pastry shop, Canestri's. Many of our neighbors were also involved in the family businesses which lined the neighborhood streets—Sally's and Pepe's Pizza, Libby's Italian Pastry Shop, Lucibello's Pastry Shop, Iovanne's Funeral Home, and Lupoli's Funeral Home are just some of those which continue to thrive today.

Small business comprises seventy-five percent of net new jobs added to the economy annually. To date, nearly twenty three million small businesses are operating across the United States. Representing over ninety-nine percent of all employers and employing over fifty percent of our nation's private workforce, small businesses are not only an invaluable piece of our heritage, but are vital to the growth and prosperity of any community. We, as a nation, recognized that with the establishment of the SBA. Throughout their history, the SBA has delivered nearly twenty million loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses. Over the past ten years they have helped over four hundred thousand small businesses receive loans totaling over ninety-four billion dollars. Last year alone, the SBA backed more than twelve billion dollars in loans. It has been through their assistance that so many have been able to make their dreams come true.

Today, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the SBA, I am proud to join with the Gateway Small Business Center and all of those who have benefitted from the SBA in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of their good work. Our communities would not be the same without the unparalleled contributions of the United States Small Business Administration and its dedicated staff.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JUANITA MINCEY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Reverend Juanita Mincey, an admirable human being and one of Florida's most involved and effective civic activists. On Saturday, October 4, 2003, Reverend Juanita Mincey will be joined by family, friends and colleagues at a reception in Miami, Florida, to honor her for her dedication to her community and to Christ Crusaders, Inc., an organization she founded which is committed to providing guidance and assistance to people in need.

Twenty-one years ago, Reverend Mincey had a vision to "reach the lost at any cost and to service the total man: mind, body and spirit." She founded Christ Crusaders, Inc. with just two employees, and over the past two decades, Christ Crusaders has grown to 66 employees. Under Reverend Mincey's leader-

ship, these men and women dedicate many hours of service to the communities of Opa-Locka, Carol City, Liberty City and North Miami, Florida.

Christ Crusaders Inc. offers a wide range of programs and services that benefit children, the elderly, and all that fall in between. Reverend Mincey has worked relentlessly to create community programs that not only provide transportation and respite care for the elderly, but also offer healthcare services that many in the community cannot afford. The advancement of mobile health clinics, HIV/AIDS screenings and testing, counseling services for substance abusers and outreach programs for pregnant women are only a few of many programs initiated by Reverend Mincey.

Additionally, with the intent to promote, foster and develop the welfare of underprivileged children and their working parents, Reverend Mincey opened three daycare centers, which serve children from pre-K through 12th grade. She also opened the Christian University, which offers bachelors through doctoral degrees to individuals who would not otherwise have the opportunity or funds to attend a state or private university to receive an education. She continues to promote the importance of education and personal development by providing young adults with scholarships, and the opportunity to attend vocational schools and art and music schools.

Under Reverend Mincey's leadership, many lives have been enhanced and many families have been helped by her dedication to providing the quality services that many people could not possibly reach. Our entire community is grateful to her for all her generous and unselfish accomplishments.

Miami-Dade County and the city of Opa-Locka have already honored Reverend Mincey with the declaration of "Juanita Mincey Day." She has also been honored on several occasions for her hard work and angelic spirit with resolutions from the Florida House of Representatives and the State of Florida.

Today, I rise on the House floor of the United States Congress to once again honor and thank Reverend Mincey for her leadership and for the countless hours of selflessness she has devoted to take care of the people of our community. Thank you for all you do.

HONORING JASON CROOK'S INTERNATIONAL KEY CLUB SPEECH CONTEST WIN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jason Crook for winning the international Key Club speech contest in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jason is a recent graduate of Blackman High School in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

On July 4, Jason demonstrated his prowess at the podium when he traveled to Indianapolis to represent his region in the contest. Jason spoke about the impact the club's values have had on his life. He triumphed over representatives from all 50 states and 20 countries.

Jason strives to achieve excellence both inside and outside of the classroom. His fellow